Whereas, Submission of resolutions as items of business is an important process at our AMA House of Delegates (HOD); and

Whereas, The number of resolutions submitted has increased over time; and

Whereas, The rules for submission of resolutions have not been changed in many years including definitions for on time, late and emergency resolutions; and

Whereas, There are multiple exceptions to the “on time” resolution definition including resolutions from AMA sections and societies who meet after the “on time” deadline; and

Whereas, The Saturday/Sunday tote contains a significant amount of new resolutions each year; and

Whereas, The resolutions in the Saturday/Sunday tote cannot be adequately reviewed and vetted by all delegations and delegation staff; and

Whereas, For the past 2 years, all delegations and sections have met virtually and have been able to work asynchronously to discuss and vote on potential resolutions to submit to the AMA HOD; and

Whereas, According to Bylaws 2.11.3.1, “To be considered as regular business, each resolution must be introduced by a delegate or organization represented in the House of Delegates and must have been submitted to the AMA not later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting at which it is to be considered”; and

Whereas, According to Bylaws 2.11.3.1.3, “Late resolutions may be presented by a delegate prior to the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates, and will be accepted as business of the House of Delegates only upon two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting”; and

Whereas, According to Bylaws 2.11.3.1.4 Emergency Resolutions, “resolutions of an emergency nature may be presented by a delegate any time after the opening session of the House of Delegates is recessed. Emergency resolutions will be accepted as business only upon a three-fourths vote of delegates present and voting, and if accepted shall be presented to the House of Delegates without consideration by a reference committee. A simple majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for adoption”; and
Whereas, The ability to meet virtually and work asynchronously has been enhanced during the pandemic to the point where it is potentially more efficient and convenient for delegations and sections; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association review the entire process of resolution submission including re-evaluating the definitions of “on time,” late, and emergency resolutions and current exceptions with a report back at the Interim 2023 meeting (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the review committee consider changing the policy so that all on time resolutions must be submitted to the HOD by the same deadlines so that the only resolutions in the Saturday/Sunday tote would be emergency and late resolutions to be voted on for acceptance by the HOD (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the review committee consider changing the rule so that all sections of the AMA will submit their “on time” resolutions by the same deadlines as the rest of the HOD, with only emergency resolutions to be submitted after Section meetings during the week before the annual or interim meetings (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA facilitate virtual meetings of the sections prior to the resolution deadline so that all resolutions can be submitted, reviewed, and discussed prior to the deadline. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 09/28/22

References:

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

House of Delegates Procedure, B-2.11

2.11.1 Order of Business. The Order of Business will be proposed by the Speaker and approved by the House of Delegates. At any meeting, the House of Delegates, by majority vote, may change the order of business.

2.11.2 Privilege of the Floor. The House of Delegates, by a two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting, may extend to any person an invitation to address the House.

2.11.3 Introduction of Business.

2.11.3.1 Resolutions. To be considered as regular business, each resolution must be introduced by a delegate or organization represented in the House of Delegates and must have been submitted to the AMA not later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting at which it is to be considered, with the following exceptions.

2.11.3.1.1 Exempted Resolutions. If any member organization's house of delegates or primary policy making body, as defined by the organization, adjourns during the 5-week period preceding commencement of an AMA House of Delegates meeting, the organization is allowed 7 days after the close of its meeting to submit resolutions to the AMA. All such resolutions must be received by noon of the day before the commencement of the AMA House of Delegates meeting. The presiding officer of the organization shall certify that the resolution was adopted at its just concluded meeting and that the body directed that the resolution be submitted to the AMA House of Delegates.
2.11.3.1.2 AMA Sections. Resolutions presented from the business meetings of the AMA Sections may be presented for consideration by the House of Delegates no later than the recess of the House of Delegates opening session to be accepted as regular business. Resolutions presented after the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates will be accepted in accordance with Bylaw 2.11.3.1.4.

2.11.3.1.3 Late Resolutions. Late resolutions may be presented by a delegate prior to the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates, and will be accepted as business of the House of Delegates only upon two-thirds vote of delegates present and voting.

2.11.3.1.4 Emergency Resolutions. Resolutions of an emergency nature may be presented by a delegate any time after the opening session of the House of Delegates is recessed. Emergency resolutions will be accepted as business only upon a three-quarters vote of delegates present and voting, and if accepted shall be presented to the House of Delegates without consideration by a reference committee. A simple majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for adoption.

2.11.3.1.5 Withdrawal of Resolutions. A resolution may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time prior to its acceptance as business by the House of Delegates.

2.11.3.1.6 Resolutions not Accepted. Late resolutions and emergency resolutions not accepted as business by the House of Delegates may be submitted for consideration at a future meeting in accordance with the procedure in Bylaw 2.11.3.

2.11.3.2 Business from the Board of Trustees. Reports, recommendations, resolutions or other new business, may be presented by the Board of Trustees at any time during a meeting. Items of business presented before the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates will be accepted as regular business. Items of business presented after the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates will be accepted as emergency business and shall be presented to the House of Delegates without consideration by a reference committee. A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for adoption.

2.11.3.3 Business from the Councils. Reports, opinions or recommendations from a council of the AMA or a special committee of the House of Delegates may be presented at any time during a meeting. Items of business presented before the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates will be accepted as regular business. Items of business presented after the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates will be accepted as emergency business and shall be presented to the House of Delegates without consideration by a reference committee. A two-thirds vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required for adoption.

2.11.3.4 Informational Reports of Sections. Informational reports may be presented by the AMA Sections.

2.11.4 Referral to Reference Committee. Reports, recommendations, resolutions or other new business presented prior to the recess of the opening session of the House of Delegates shall be referred to an appropriate reference committee for hearings and report, subject to acceptance as business of the House of Delegates. Items of business presented after the recess of the opening session are not referred to reference committee, but rather heard by the House of Delegates as a whole, subject to acceptance as business of the House of Delegates. Informational items are not referred to a reference committee.

2.11.6 Quorum. A majority of the voting members of the House of Delegates Official Call shall constitute a quorum.